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## ON THE LANGUAGE OF THE MAGYARS.\*

THE language and literature of the Magyars have suffered greatly, partly from political causes, partly from the imposition of the Latin language. Upon the conversion of the Magyars to Christianity, the foreign clergy not only introduced the Latin into exclusive use in the public worship, but, through the power which they exercised, succeeded also in making it the language of the Court and of the government. We are led to believe indeed that for several centuries the native language was only in use among the lower classes, and that the Latin monopolised the field of literature till the close of the eighteenth century. But perhaps this is going too far, for we find a great many works in the Magyar language prior to the commencement of the present century. Not only is poetry well represented, but we notice also works on most of the arts and sciences, and many translations from French, English, Latin, Greek, Turkish and Arabic.† Joseph II endeavoured to supplant the Magyar language by decreeing the use of German in the schools, courts of justice, and administration, an attempt which seems to have produced effects the reverse of those anticipated; and it is from this period that the cultivation of the Hungarian language is said to have commenced.‡ In 1806 the Magyar was substituted for the Latin as the language of the courts and of public documents; and later, in 1831, the native language received a still further impetus through the laudable efforts of the Hungarian Academy.

There are many theories as to the origin of the Hungarians and their language, one writer tracing them to the Caucasus, another to Parthia, and a third to Palestine. Again, some have endeavoured to establish a connection between the Magyar and the Scandinavian languages, and even with the Arabic, Hindústání, Sanscrit,§ and

\* At our request, Dr. Charnock has kindly favoured us with the following remarks on this interesting subject.

† Fejer wrote a work called *Anthropology and Logic*, but I do not know the date of publication.

‡ A late writer says: "The most decided and permanent excitement of the Magyar literature was received from these decrees of Joseph II, which were intended to overthrow it. The mandate 'Let the Magyar language perish', was construed by every patriot Hungarian into 'regenerate your mother-tongue', and it was regenerated."

§ There are Sanscrit roots in the Mongol, but it is doubtful whether any of them have found their way through the Kalmuck and the other Tatar dialects into the Magyar.

Chinese. A late writer says, "The Magyar language stands alone and remote from every other. We do not believe the story of Don Cossacks having lately wandered into Hungary, where they found, we are told, no difficulty in understanding and being understood by the Magyars. We have ourselves compared the Magyar with most of the dialects spoken in the south and east of Russia, and have ascertained that the resemblances are faint and few. In structure it bears a slight affinity to the Finnish, Laplandish, and Esthonian, and elaborate industry has discovered some words apparently of common origin. The same is the case with the Chudish, the Teutonic, and the Slavonian. But the distinguishing characters of the Magyar are solitary, and its roots cannot be traced to any hitherto discovered source. Much of the political history of the Magyars may be followed in the foreign words which are found in their language."\*

This writer might have been of a different opinion had he consulted the principal works on the Hungarian language which had seen the light at the time he wrote the above. Considered grammatically, the Hungarian has considerable affinity with the Lapponic and the Finnic proper, and to some extent with the Finnic and Finnic-Tatar dialects spoken by the Votyáks, the Cheremisses, and the Vogúls; also with the pure Tatar dialects and their offspring, the Turcic and Basque. The resemblances between the Magyar and the Turcic have been already pointed out by M. Vámbéry. Those between the Magyar and the pure Tatar dialects are but few on account of the paucity of the grammatical forms in the latter. In the Magyar there is only one conjugation for all regular verbs. In Mongol there is only one conjugation for both primitive and derivative verbs. The principal affinities between the Magyar and the Lapponic are in the termination of the nouns and the adjectives, in the absence of gender in the nouns, in the declension and conjugation, in the comparison of adjectives and adverbs, in the pronouns, the numerals, and the suffixes. The Hungarians, like the Lapps, are fond of reduplication.† [This is also the case in the Mandshu.] In declension and conjugation the Magyar agrees to some extent with the Esthnic. The Magyar forms some diminutives like the latter language, and agrees with it as it does with the Lapponic in the comparison of the adjectives. In the Magyar, the comparative degree is formed by adding *bb*, if the last letter of the positive ends in a vowel, and *abb* or *ebb*,

\* See an article entitled "Language and Literature of the Magyars", *For. Quart. Rev.*, vol. iii, p. 28, 1829.

† Among other examples, Gyarmathi gives the following: Lap. *japest, japai*. Mag. *eszendöröl, eszendöre*, de anno in annum; Lap. *orron, orroje*, Mag. *örökkön, örökké*, in æternum.

if it ends in a consonant. In the Lapponic, if the last letter of the positive is *e* or *a*, it adds *b*; if in *es*, it adds *eb*; if in *as*, *atz*, or *os*, it adds *ab*. In the Dorpat dialect of the Esthnic the comparative is formed by the addition of *mb* to the positive. The Magyar agrees also with the Esthnic in its numerals and adverbs, and with the Basque, as with the Lapponic and Finnic, in the absence of gender in the nouns,\* and also in the declension, in which it is liable to take, according to some, ten, according to others, thirteen cases.† The terminations of these cases have also certain resemblances, but somewhat more so in the Lapponic than in the Finnic. In conjugation it agrees considerably with the latter. The Hungarian and Lapponic express the idea "I have" as in Basque, Hebrew, and Arabic; thus, for "I have," they say "It is to me." In the first person of the present of the indicative, the Magyar agrees with the dialect of the Cheremisses, and in the formation of the infinitive, which always terminates in *ni*, with the dialects of the Votyáks, the Permians and the Syrjaens. There are also other resemblances in conjugation between the Basque, the Mordwinen, the Vogúl, and the Hungarian. Again, in the Magyar and Finnic (and especially in the former) takes place what has been termed the sympathy of vowels. In these two languages the vowels will only associate with the vowels of the same group, the soft with the soft, the hard with the hard; thus in Magyar the nouns *láb* (foot), *ember* (man), *bor* (wine), in the plural become *lábak*, *emberek*, *borok*.‡ In the Basque there is also a sympathy of the vowels, but it only takes place with those of a different group. Prince L. L. Bonaparte§ aptly illustrates this law: "Les dures avec les douces et les douces avec les dures, c'est là la règle du basque: L'ANTAGONISME. Les dures avec les dures et les douces avec les douces est celle des langues finnoises: le DUALISME." Again, in the Finnic, Lapponic, and Magyar, the terminations *ats*, *ke* are analogous to those in Basque, not only in position, but also in signification. There are also some affinities between the Magyar numerals and those of the Votyáks, the Permians, and Cheremisses, and with the latter in the suffixed possessive pronouns, and sometimes in the form of the pronoun itself. On account of the formation of the plural of their nouns in *k*, an affinity between the Lapponic of Finmark and the Basque has been suggested, but this may be merely accidental. It is said that anciently the Magyar

\* No Finnic dialect distinguishes substantives by gender.

† The Mongol declension has ten cases.

‡ The plural termination in the Magyar is not employed when preceded by a noun of number.

§ *Langue Basque et Langues Finnoises*.. London: 1862.

had no plural, and when it was necessary to convey the idea of number the word *sok*\* (many) was attached, and that in time *sok* became abbreviated, and the last letter only was used to denote the plural form. If so, in order to establish any affinity in this respect, it must be shown that the Basque termination is also derived from *sok*, which cannot be done. One of the properties of the Magyar is in the extensive use of suffixes. Almost all the modifications of nouns, verbs, pronouns, and prepositions being produced by an addition to the termination without the use of auxiliaries: thus, a monosyllabic root often becomes lengthened to a word of eight or ten syllables, *e. g.* from *lat*, he sees, we in time get *láthatatlanágának*, to his unseeableness. The same takes place in the Basque, in the dialects of the Cheremisses and the Mordwines, and also in some of the American languages. In Basque the verb is capable of expressing the subject and the régime direct. The same can be done to a certain extent both in the Magyar, the Vogúl, and the Mordwinen. In Magyar there is scarcely any law of syntax. In the arrangement of the words the Magyar admits of greater variation than any other European language. Wékey gives six, Márton sixteen, different variations in the collocation of *Az atyám eladta a házáat*, "my father has sold his house." The arrangement of the words, however, is generally governed by the emphasis required. In the names of persons, the baptismal always follows the ancestral name; thus, Kossuth Lajos (Louis Kossuth), Schvarcz Gyula (Julius Schvarcz). With the pronouns, when associated with nouns, verbs, or prepositions, a singular process frequently takes place. They are cut in two, and the word to which they are attached is placed between the halves; for example, *mienk* (our) *atyé* (father) becomes *miatyenk* (our father). In concluding this part of the subject, I will merely add that similarities of structure have also been remarked between the Magyar and the Armenian, and that there is a closer relationship between the former and the Slavic languages, as there is between those languages and the Finnic, than is generally supposed.

The Magyar vocabulary contains about 18,000 words. Of these, at least 500 may be traced direct to the Greek, Latin, German, French, Wallachian, and Italian; and about forty or fifty to the Turcic. A few words are also derived from the Persic, the Hebrew, and the Gipsy language, and a great many by means of onomatopœia. Taking the dictionary as it stands, I find 882 words in more or less affinity with the Lapponic, 219 with the Finnic, 477 with the Esthnic; and in these proportions in the dialects spoken by the following

\* Probably the same as the Lapponic *kukke*, long.

peoples, viz., Vogúls 100 ; Cheremisses 124 ; Votyáks and Chuvashes 161 ; Syrjaens, Permians, and Mordwines 92 ; Ostyáks 39 ; Samoyedes\* 69. The affinities of the Magyar with the Slavic languages are in about the following proportions : Russian† 923 ; Serbic 465 ; Bohemian 364 ; Polish 243. The affinities with the pure Tatar dialects do not amount to more than 240. Words pertaining to agricultural matters have been mostly borrowed from the Slavic dialects ; those relating to the arts of civilised life, from the German. In ecclesiastical matters many of the terms are of Latin origin, whilst, among other words borrowed from the Turcic, are some of the names for dress.

Rénusat classes the Tatar languages under four heads, viz., the Tibetan, the Mandshu, the Mongol, and the Ouighour (Uigur), which include some forty or fifty dialects. In 1730 Von Strahlenberg published his *Nord-und-Ostliche Theil von Europa und Asia*, containing a Polyglot table of 32 Tatar dialects, together with a Kalmuck vocabulary. In this table, however, two-thirds of the Finnic and Finnic-Tatar dialects before referred to are included. The Tatar dialects which I have principally consulted are those spoken by the Kalmucks, the Yakuts, the Nogai or Krim Tatars, and the Tunguses, of which there are several. The three first are included under the terms Mongolian and Uigur, the last under that of Mandshu. The follow-

\* Many words are found in several of these dialects. Out of one hundred and ten words found in the dialects of the Ostyáks and Samoyedes, thirty-five are common to both.

† Many of the words in these four dialects are common to two or three of them, which would perhaps reduce the Slavic affinities to about 600 or 700 words. When I speak of affinity with so many Slavic words, I think it probable that the Magyar has actually borrowed most of them. At the end of his *Lexicon*, Dankovszky gives a summary showing primitive words in the Magyar amounting to 4,668 ; viz., 962 Magyar primitives, 3,706 foreign primitives, made up as follows :—

Slavic .....	1898
Greek ..... 701 }	889
Greco-Slavic ..... 188 }	
Latin .....	334
German .....	288
Italian .....	268
French.....	25
Hebrew .....	4

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3,706

But this can hardly be depended upon, the Lapponic, Finnic, and Finnic-Tatar words, being here ignored. For a list of the foreign words in Magyar, see *Über die Fremdwörter im Magyarischen*, von Johann Zahourek, Prag., Svo. 1856.

ing is a specimen of words which may be traced to the German, Latin, or French :—

<i>Magyar.</i>	<i>German.</i>	<i>Latin.</i>	<i>French.</i>	<i>English.</i>
Angolna		anguilla		an eel
Benn	innen			within
Bival		bubalus		buffalo
Bodnár	büttner			cooper
Bognár	wagner			wheelwright
Cséza			chaise	seat
Czeremónia		ceremonia		ceremony
Égzhás			église	church
Tábla			table	table

The following is a specimen of words found in affinity with the Laponic, Finnic, or Esthonian :—

<i>Magyar.</i>	<i>Lapponic.</i>	<i>Finnic.</i>	<i>Esthnic.</i>	<i>English.</i>
Anyá	eana			mother
Atya	attje			father
Csont			kont	bone
Fa			pu	wood, tree
Farkas	varg, vargas			wolf
Hal		chala, kal	kalla	fish
Hild, híd			sild	bridge
Hold	hald, kold			[tion) moon
Hon			hone (habita- jää	country
Jég			kässi, käe	ice
Kéz	kez	kási, kesi		hand
Kő'	kü, ku			stone
Méreg			murk	poison
Méz		mesi		honey
Szarv, szaru			sarw	horn

The following is a specimen of words in affinity with either the Tatar or Turcic :—

<i>Magyar.</i>	<i>Tatar.</i>	<i>Turcic.</i>	<i>English.</i>
Alázatos	alascha		humble
Anyá (formed anyám)	auna, aunám; ana (Uigur)	ana	mother
A'ropa	arpa (Uigur)	arpah	barley
Atya	ata (Uigur)	atá	father
Bátor	batir		bold
Cserfa (formerly tsere-fa)	tschara-fu		oak
Czifra		sifr	cipher
Ét	it; et (Uigur)	et	flesh
Falu	aul		village
Homok	kumák		sand
Jó		áyú	good
Kalap, kalpag	kalpag	kalpak	hat
Kapu	kapu, kapu	kapú	door
Szakáll	sagal, tzakal, zakal, sagkal	sakál	beard
Szalma	saman (Uigur)	saman	straw

The following is a specimen of words in affinity with the Slavic :—

<i>Magyar.</i>	<i>Russian.</i>	<i>Serbic.</i>	<i>Bohemian.</i>	<i>Polish.</i>	<i>English.</i>
Abrok			obrok		fodder, forage
Asztal	sztol			stol	table
Bán			pan		governor, ban

<i>Magyar.</i>	<i>Russian.</i>	<i>Serbic.</i>	<i>Bohemian.</i>	<i>Polish.</i>	<i>English.</i>
Bánya	banja				teeth
Bárány	baran				lamb
Bükkfa	buk			bukiew	beech
Cseléd			celed		servant
Grob			hrubi		coarse
Gyantár	jantar				amber
Járom	jarem, jarmo	jarem			yoke
Kard		grad	kord		sword
Kert					garden
Király		korol, kral			king
Méz	med				honey
Pára				para	vapour
Sin, sing	arsin				a Russian maas
Szalma				slama	straw
Torony	tjurma	toron			tower
Vagda	vojewode				voivode

It may be as well here to give the habitat, and to make a few remarks upon the dialects of the nations or tribes which have more or less affinity with the Magyar. The Tchuds or Finns inhabit separate portions of Russia. Most of them are settled on both sides of the Gulf of Finland, and both Finns and Laplanders occupy the country north of the Gulf. The Lapps have three dialects; the Norwegian or Fin-Lap; the Swedish or Lap Proper; and the Russo-Lap. The latter greatly resembles the Fin-Lap, which is spoken in Finnmark, and is the most ancient and most pure; the second has undergone so great a change that in Russian Lapmark little is understood of the neighbouring dialects. Generally speaking, the language spoken by the Lapps differs from that of the Finns of Finland, not only in many words which are peculiar to it, but also by the sounds and the inflexions of the words. The whole grammatical structure is more ingenious in the Lapponic than in the Finnic branch. The Fin-Lap is richest in derivative words. The Esths inhabit Esthonia, one of the three Baltic provinces of Russia, having east the government of St. Petersburg, south Livonia and Lake Peipus, and north the Gulf of Finland. The Esthnic is a Finnic language, but has become more germanised than the Finnic. German being the idiom of the conquerors, is spoken by the nobles and the inhabitants of towns, etc. The native idiom is only spoken by the peasantry. The Esths having been long separated from the Finns, they understand each other no better than the Danes and Swedes, or the Germans and Dutch. The Chuvashes and Cheremisses dwell in the neighbourhood of Casan, on both sides of the Volga. The Chuvashes are chiefly settled on the western, the Cheremisses on the eastern side of the river. Single families are found as far south as Saratov. The dialect of the Chuvashes has a large number of roots common to the Finnic, but has also many of Tatar origin. The dialect of the Cheremisses has more Finnic roots than that of the Chuvashes, but there are also many from the Tatar. The Mordwi



or Mordwines dwell west of the Chuvashes, on both sides of the Sura, which falls into the Volga between Nishneï Novgorod and Casan. On the west they extend to the banks of the Oka. The Mordwines and the Cheremisses have been included in the Bulgaric branch of the Finnic stock. The Ostyáks (*i.e.* the people of the As or Ob) occupy both banks of the Ob (Obi), from Obdursk upwards to the confluence of that river with the Irtish; and even south of Obdursk are found some families. Their language has several dialects, which have more or less resemblance with those spoken by the Vogúls, and the Mordwines. The Vogúls or Vogúlich dwell west of the Ostyáks, occupying both declivities of the Ural chain, between 58° and 60° north latitude. They are said to be of Mogul origin. Their language may be called Finnic-Tatar, and has great affinity with that of the Magyars. The Vogúls, Magyars, and Ostyáks have been included under the Ugric branch of the Finnic stock. The Permians inhabit the Russian government of Perm, which is partly in Europe, partly in Asia, but chiefly in the former, being separated by the Ural into two unequal portions, enclosed by the governments Vologda, Viatka, Orenburg, and Tobolsk. The Votyáks or Oudumurt, *i.e.* men, are settled west of the Permians, on both sides of the upper courses of the Viatka, and in the country about the source of the Kama. The dialects of the Votyáks, the Syrjaens, and the Permians have been included in the Permian branch of the Finnic stock. The Syrjaens inhabit the country between the upper course of the Kama and the Vyhegda, an affluent of the Dwina, and particularly both banks of the Vyhegda, as far west as the mouth of the Sinola. Although they have preserved their own dialect, they generally speak also the Russian language.

The Samoyedes are one of the most widely spread nomadic nations of northern Asia. Those of the north wander about the western coast of Siberia; those of the south inhabit that part of the Altai, which extends from the sources of the Tshulyshman, one of the principal branches of the Ob, to the south-western extremity of Lake Baikal. The Samoyedan tribes speak different dialects of the same language, which varies much from those of all the neighbouring nations, though it contains many roots which occur in the languages of central Asia. We now come to the tribes which may be considered as wholly of Tatar origin. With the exception of the Buriates, the Yakuts are the most populous of the nations of Eastern Siberia. They live in the country of the Tunguses. The language of the Yakuts has few words in common with the Mongol, and has been considered to have the same base as that of the Osmanli-Turks. According to Erman, out of 297 words of the Yakut language, only 114 do not occur in the dictionary of Turco-Tatar; and he thinks it can

hardly be doubted that a Yakut born on the Altai could make himself understood by an Osmanli of Constantinople. But this is going too far; two-thirds of the Turkish language being derived from the Arabic, Persian, and other languages. The appellation Kalmucks is given by the Russians to the principal branches of the division of the Mongols which bears the general name of Olöth or Oirat. Tribes of the Kalmucks occur over all the countries of Upper Asia, between 38° and 32° north latitude; and from the most northern bend of the Hoang-Ho to the banks of the Volga. Their language has considerable affinity with the Mongol. The Tunguses\* are the most widely dispersed of the native tribes of Siberia. They occur even in Da-uria, particularly between the Onon and Argun, and the northern districts of Mandshuria are also peopled with them. Farther north they are in possession of the country that encloses Lake Baikal on the north; and hence they extend to the Polar Sea. Along the banks of the Yenesei they are found from some distance below Tunguska, and along the shores of the sea of Okhotsk from the boundary-line of the Chinese empire to the town of Okhotsk. Some parts of this extensive country are exclusively occupied by them; in other parts they are found by the side of the Yakuts. The dialects (of which there are eight) of all the tribes of the Tunguses differ little from each other, and may be classed under Mandshu. The Nogai or Krim Tartars inhabit the Crimea and the steppe which extends north of the Peninsula. They are also dispersed east of the sea of Azof, and along the northern base of the Caucasus. Grammars, vocabularies, etc., of the Finnic, Finnic-Tatar, and Tatar dialects, and treatises relating thereto have been published by Ahrens, Beregszasz, Boehtlingk, Bonaparte (Prince L. L.), Castrén, Euren, Faehlmann, Fiellström, Friis, Gabelentz, Ganander, Gyarmathi, Hunfalvy, Hupel, Ihre, Kalmár, Kellgren, Klaproth, Lönnrot, Márton, Medemann, Müller, Possart, Rask, Regul, Renvall, Rochrig, Sajnovics, Schiefner, Schott, Sjögren, Stockfleth, Strahlenberg, Strahlmann, Tengström, Wékey, Wiedemann, Vhael and Zylander.

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\* They call themselves *Donki* (people), of which *Tungus* is a corruption; they are also called *Boye* (men).